

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 10770 311352Z

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ACTION CU-03

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P R 301944Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6459

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS CARACAS 10770

FOR: STATE FOR CU/ARA; USIA FOR ILA/RODGERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC VE

SUBJECT: FY75 IV PROGRAM (BECKER, ERIK)

REF: CARACAS 10702; CHAPLIN/DAMBRAVA TELCON

1. ERIK BECKER IS DIRECTOR FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CURRENTLY ACTING DIRECTOR FOR INFORMATION AND CULTURE); FORMER POSITIONS INCLUDE DIPLOMATIC POSTS AS DCM AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AT VIENNA; REPRESENTATIVE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, VIENNA; SECRETARY GENERAL OF VENEZUELAN COMMISSION FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH UNESCO, PERMANENT CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF VENEZUELA; MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR TELEVISION EDUCATION; DELEGATE TO VARIUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS. A GRADUATE WITH A DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY FROM UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA ANDRES BELLO, COURSES EICHHOLZ POLITICAL ACADEMY (BONN) AND AT INTER-AMERICAN CENTER FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (GUATEMALA); BORN AT PARIAGUAN, APRIL 4, 1943, MARRIED, 3 CHILDREN. BECKER HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY IN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA. HE VISITED U.S. IN 1966 WITH A GROUP OF COPEI YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS ON AN EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL PROJECT WHILE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH BUREAU OF THE COPEI PARTY. NO INTERPRETER SERVICES REQUIRED.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 10770 311352Z

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS INCLUDED AS A SEPARATE

ITEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION SINCE IT HAS A BEARING ON HIS PROGRAM INTERESTS:

ERIK BECKER HAS- AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE- A LEADING POLITICAL PARTY ROLE IN COPEI (THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY OF VENEZUELA), NURRENTLY THE OPPOSITION PARTY, AND IN THE FUTURE MAY BE EXPECTED TO SERVE IN CONGRES- SIONAL OR MINISTERIAL POSTS. THE ACCION DEMOCRATICA GOVERNMENT HAS A HIGH REGARD FOR HIS EXPERIENCE AND DEDICATED GOVERNMENT SERVICE AS EVIDENCED BY HIS CURRENT POST WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. PROGRAM INTERESTS INCLUDE GOVERNMENTAL CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZATION, CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, CULTURAL EXTENSION PROGRAMS AT UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS, PETROLEUM AND ECONOMICS, URBAN AFFAIRS AND CIVIC PROGRAMS.

WASHINGTON: BRIEFINGS AT DEPARTMENT (ARA FRANK DEVINE AND CU MAX CHAPLIN SUGGEST EXTENSIVE BRIEFING ON ENERGY SITUATION); NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS, ESPECIALLY THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY; THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES; LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; KENNEDY CENTER. AT USIA HE IS ACQUAINTED WITH ILA DIRECTOR DILLON AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT ED JOYCE. (WILLIAMSBURG)

NEW YORK- UNITED NATIONS, LINCOLN CENTER (ARCHITECTURAL ASPECTS AND STAGE DESIGN), MUSEUMS, A CONCERT.

NEW HAVEN- YALE UNIVERSITY (LIBRARIES, THEATRE AND MUSIC).

BOSTON- UNIVERSITIES, CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SITES, LEGISLATURE.

CORNING, NEW YORK-CORNING CLASS CENTER.

DETROIT-FORD DEARBORN MUSEUM AND AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY.

THE CARACAS MANAGER OF THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY CHARLES TORBAY IS A FRIEND.

SAN FRANCISCO, (POSSIBLY SEATTLE SHOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO VISIT ALASKA).

ERIK BECKER HAS EXPRESSED A KEEN INTEREST IN VISITING ALASKA. THE POST UNDERSTANDS THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE, BUT BECKER FASCINATED ITS DEVELOPMENT AS A NEW STATE, ITS ECONOMIC POTENTIAL(JUNEAU AND ANCHORAGE).

IF TIME PRIMITS WOULD WISH VISIT GRAND CANYON AND RETURN TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 CARACA 10770 311352Z

CARACAS VIA NEW ORLEANS.

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